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U. S. Department of Justice

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100-HQ-51772 SERIALS 1 - SECTION 1

100-HQ-51772-1

SERIALS	REQUESTERS FULL NAME	BUREAU FILE NUMBER	DATE	
All	Goldberg	202,162	3/1	51

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Class. & Ext. By SP7 MAC/TAR 213
Reason-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2
Date of Review 12/30/81
12/30/81

DECLASSIFIED ON 11/4/88
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Transfer-Call 3421

OFFICE OF DIRECTOR, FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

TO
OFFICIAL INDICATED BELOW BY CHECK MARK

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Mr. Tolson	( )
Mr. E. A. Tamm	( )
Mr. Clegg	( )
Mr. Glavin	( )
Mr. Ladd	( )
Mr. Nichols	( )
Mr. Tracy	( )
Mr. Rosen	( )
Mr. Carson	( )
Mr. Coffey	( )
Mr. Hendon	( )
Mr. Holloman	( )
Mr. Quinn Tamm	( )
Mr. Nease	( )
Miss Gandy	( )
	( )

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memo on situation

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Note and Return ( )
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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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10-14-83 304a Request
memo to Director 11/81

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RWB:rb November 8, 1941

THE DIRECTOR

In response to your request I am submitting two memoranda concerning Maxim Maximovich Litvinov. The first of the two memoranda is a one page summary of the material contained in the second.

Respectfully,

D. M. Ladd

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BY 51:3187

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Reason-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2 2.3
Date of Review 12-30-91

Class. by Secretary
Date of Review OADR 11-1-82

10-1-85 Butler

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12-30-91

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
8 DEC 8 9
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Wilson
Tamm
Coffey
Gavin
Ladd
Nichols
Tracy
Rosen
Carson
Coffey
Clayton
Coleman
Tamm

Serial cannot be located as it is not on record. When original is received in the Bureau it will be filed with this copy or may be given a new serial.
12/4/41

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November 8, 1941

CLASSIFIED DECISIONS FINALIZED BY DEPARTMENT REVIEW COMMITTEE (DRC) DATE: 4/13/88

MEMORANDUM

Re: MAXIM MAXIMOVICH LITVINOV

Maxim Maximovich Litvinov, a Russian Jew, age 65, was born in German occupied Poland. After serving in the army of the Czar for several years, he became interested in the Marxian Revolutionary movement. His activities in this connection brought him into conflict with the Russian Government which resulted in his imprisonment. He escaped and continued his activities in other countries where he served the revolutionary movement as a free lance propaganda agent, organizer, and publisher. He married an English woman and was in England at the time of the Russian Revolution in 1917. In 1917 he was appointed as the Soviet representative to both Great Britain and the United States, but was not accepted. He served in the Soviet foreign service continually from 1917 until 1939, being an assistant foreign commissar up until 1930 and the foreign commissar subsequent to that time.

During the first few years following the Revolution he had charge of all propaganda and commercial activity of the new Russian regime in the Baltic states and Western Europe. Between the years 1920 and 1930 he represented Russia in all disarmament and peace conferences in Europe attending the General Conference, the Locarno Conference, and the Conference at the Hague.

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In 1933 as the Commissar of Foreign Affairs, he came to the United States and successfully obtained recognition of the U.S.S.R. It is to be noted that one of the terms of the negotiations was that the U.S.S.R. would discontinue its "Trojan horse" activities in the United States.

From 1934 to 1937 he served as Russia's delegate at the League of Nations where he won fame in championing the doctrine of collective security. A few months prior to the Russian-German pact of August 23, 1939, which pact Litvinov was said to have opposed, he resigned voluntarily and was succeeded by Molotov. While many of his associates were "purged" he himself escaped such treatment. While in the League Litvinov continually protested against the German aggression and has obtained a reputation of being violently anti-German. After remaining in the background for two years he again came to the fore following the German invasion of Russia, and in July of 1941 broadcasted an appeal to the British people.

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Date of Review 12-30-91

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Mr. Carson
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Mr. Holloman
Miss Gandy

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RWB/pk

November 7, 1941

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[RE: MAXIM MAXIMOVICH LITVINOV] SU

The above spelling is that contained in the Encyclopedia Britannica; however, the name is frequently spelled Litvinoff and is so listed in the New York Times and Time magazine. He has been known by the following aliases: Papasha, David Mordecai Finkelstein, Litvinoff Harrison, Feike, Luvinye, and Gustav Graf. S SU

The Encyclopedia Britannica states that he was born in 1876 in Bielostok, Russia, which is now in Nazi-occupied Poland. According to a State Department report in December of 1920 he is of Jewish parentage and there have been numerous other references from time to time in the files which make reference to this ancestry. He entered military service at the age of seventeen and soon after became interested in Marxism. The State Department reported that upon completion of his military training he joined the Social Democratic Committee in Kiev where he was arrested in 1901 for owning and operating a secret printing press. He was said to have been sentenced to Siberia for five years, and escaped abroad after serving one and one-half years in prison. He then took active part in the Social Democratic newspaper, The Iskra. According to the Encyclopedia Britannica he then joined the Bolshevik section of the party and returned to Russia in 1903 under a German passport issued to one Gustav Graf. He then worked as a member of the Central Committee until the revolution in 1905. In that year he attended the London Congress as a delegate from the Riga Committee and took part with Gorky in founding "Noraza Zhizu," (The New Life). SU

Because of the failure of the revolution of 1905 Litvinov lived abroad and organized the sending of weapons to the revolutionists in the Caucasus. The source consulted made no specific reference to his activities between the years 1905 and 1917, although it is to be noted that William Philip Simms mentioned in the Washington Daily News dated November 7, 1941, that Litvinov was said to have met Lenin soon after his escaped from prison and he was instrumental in raising funds for the Bolsheviks by marketing stolen bonds in France in 1907. Simms also mentioned the fact SU

CLASSIFIED DECISIONS FINALIZED BY DEPARTMENT REVIEW COMMITTEE (DRC) DATE: 4-4-88 7-11-88

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Date of Review 12/29/91 12/29/91

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8 DEC 3 1941
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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that Litvinov has lead a "sort of Jekyll-Hyde existence, being a newspaper editor, accountant, proof reader, purchasing agent for a big German electrical concern, and so on, by day, and a revolutionary by night." S U

According to the State Department report of 1920 Litvinov became manager of The Committee on Correct Information about New Russia. In July of 1917 this Committee had its headquarters in England. While the Kerensky Government was in power, Litvinov professed strong anti-Bolshevik tendencies but as soon as that government fell, he promptly became a Soviet sympathizer. He then became a member of the Russian Delegates' Committee and was made representative of the Bolshevik government in England but was expelled in 1918 for abuse of his privileges. In this connection the Washington Evening Star of November 6, 1941, pointed out the British Government would not accept him as a government representative and that he then received a commission as the first Soviet Ambassador to the United States, but this country refused him a visa. In 1919 he returned to Moscow and entered the Foreign Office. (The State Dept, Ref.; B S 202600-785X, Richard Crane, State Dept, Prague 12-1-2 U S

The State Department pointed out that upon returning to Russia he joined the extremists in order to gain power and that his appointment to the Foreign Office was due to one Dzarzhinski. The State Department submitted an article entitled, "Behind the Scenes of Soviet Activities" made available by a "reliable source in Riga" which referred to the fact that a secret conference of representatives of the Third International at Bremen had resolved to alter their propaganda system in western Europe and to entirely separate propaganda from official Soviet representative institutions. Europe was said to be divided into five propaganda districts, the general set up of which was said to have been left in the hands of Litvinov at Reval, Esthonia. (B S 202600-785-66) S U

The State Department files make numerous references to Litvinov's activities as a propaganda agent in Copenhagen, Denmark, Stockholm, Sweden, and in Norway. It was said that to Litvinov has been accredited the plan of making foreign residents hostages to meet political needs. (202600-785 X) S U

In connection with Litvinov's activities in the Baltic States, it is to be noted that a report of a Joint Legislative Committee Investigating Seditious Activities dated April 24, 1920, was read before the Dies Committee on October 18, 1938. Chapter Seven of that report stated that Litvinov came to Copenhagen with a staff because the Swedish Government had refused him permission S U

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to make his headquarters at Stockholm. In Copenhagen, as well as in the principal cities of all the Baltic States which Litvinov served during the years from 1919 to 1921, he continued in his efforts to negotiate trade treaties with those countries and Russia, to obtain recognition of Russia, to spread propaganda and establish Russian foreign offices, and to obtain munitions to be sent to Russia. According to information obtained from the State Department, much of which consisted of telegram intercepts, the principal center of operations continued to be in Reval, Esthonia. From this place Litvinov covered and directed the operations throughout Western Europe. SU

During the years from 1920 to 1930, Litvinov served as Assistant Commissar of Foreign Affairs. The Encyclopedia Britannica mentioned that in that capacity, Litvinov represented Russia in the Peace negotiations at Esthonia, negotiated with the European powers at Copenhagen, at the Genoa Conference. He also served as the President of the Russian Delegation at the Conference at the Hague, Netherlands. (P 1437 & 1438, Vol , Dies Committee Report) SU.

The New York Field Division advised the Bureau that on June 13, 1928, a confidential informant had submitted the following: SU

"Through a reliable source I was informed that Maxim Litvinoff of the Foreign Commissariat (State Department) of the Soviet Government has placed $1,000,000.00 in the hands of Boris Skvirsky, head of the Soviet Information Bureau in Washington, D. C. SC

"This million dollars is to be used for propaganda purposes in behalf of the recognition of the Soviet Government by the United States. SC

"This money will be used during the election campaign for the new President of the United States, but active work for the recognition of the Soviet Government will start immediately after the new administration goes into power. SC

"According to my informant, Litvinoff also appointed the committee who will handle this fund and will consist of Boris Skvirsky, Charles Recht and Dr. Mislig. SC

"My informant also stated that the Soviet Government is sure of getting its recognition by the United States if Mr. Hoover is elected as President, as Mr. Hoover has large holdings in Siberia, and he is much interested in the Russian market." SC

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In 1930 Litvinov received the appointment of Foreign Commissar for the U.S.S.R. In this capacity he came to the United States in November of 1933 which visit culminated in the United States' recognition of the Soviet Union. S U

On September 23, 1939, Mr. D. H. Dubrowski testified before the Dies Committee with reference to certain contacts he had had with Litvinov at the time the negotiations with the State Department and the President took place in 1933. Mr. Dubrowski referred to the fact that Litvinov was very pleased with himself at the conclusion of the conferences and that he made the following statements to Dubrowski: "Well, I promised them we were going to negotiate but they did not know we were going to negotiate until doomsday", and then added, "The next one was a corker; they wanted me to give them freedom of religion." Dubrowski stated that Litvinov remarked to him later, "I was very much prompted to offer that I will collect all the Bibles and ship them out to them." S U (Vol 8, Dies Committee) S U

In testifying before the same committee in 1938, Walter S. Steele made reference to the fact that one of the terms of the agreement entered into by the United States Government was that Russia would discontinue its "Trojan horse" methods. According to Mr. Steele three months previous to this agreement Stalin was said to have stated that any such agreement could not be binding upon the Third International and Mr. Steele further pointed out that on the morning after he left Washington, Litvinov stated to the communist publications in New York City, including the Daily Worker, that "This agreement does not include the Third International." (61-7582 - Walter S Steele testimony, P 27) S U

Following Litvinov's return to Russia, he was appointed as Russia's rppresentative to the League of Nations in 1934. In this role he gained his greatest renown as an uncompromising exponent of a doctrine of collective security and an advocate of disarmanent. S U

The July 15, 1940, issue of Time contained an extensive summary of the Russian position in world affairs which helps to explain Litvinov's position. Time pointed out that Lenin believed that the communist state would have to exist for many years beside the capitalist and therefore the U.S.S.R. should aim toward peaceful coexistence as long as the capitalists did not impede or attack her. It pointed out, however, that from the communist point of view this peaceful coexistence policy merely existed as a foreign S U

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NW 60228 DocId:34297924 Page 8

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policy whereas the Communist International adopted a political policy of trying to undermine capitalist governments. This resulted in capitalist distrust of everything Russian. It pointed out that from the revolution in 1917 until Russia's entrance into the League in 1934, her relations with Germany were far better than they were with Great Britain and France. This was because the allies had intervened in an attempt to overthrow the Bolshevik regime; had offered Russia financial aid at Genoa only if capitalism was restored; and had excluded Russia from the Locarno negotiations in 1925. The British finally broke off diplomatic relations with Russia in 1927. However, because in 1934 Hitler had refused to sign a non-aggression pact with Russia and was becoming more aggressive, Russia entered the League of Nations. Litvinov saw his principle of collective security sold out on numerous occasions -- in 1935 when the League refused to stand by its sanction platform by refusing to place an embargo on oil shipments to Italy during her Ethiopian campaign; when Britain adopted a non-interference policy in Spain, contrary to the other powers; when the League took no action against Japan when that nation invaded another League member, China, in 1937; when Great Britain and France refused to stand by the U.S.S.R. in protecting Czechoslovakia just prior to Munich; and finally in 1939 after Germany took the rest of Czechoslovakia, when Great Britain referred to Russia's six-power conference proposal against further aggression, as "premature." SU

It is to be noted that T. A. Taracousio on page forty-three of his book, "The Soviet Union and International Law," pointed out that prior to 1934 Litvinov had said that the Soviet government considered the League of Nations "....not a friendly assimilation of peoples working for the common benefit but as a masked union of the so-called great powers who have allocated to themselves the right of dictatorship with regard to the fate of weaker peoples." SU

In March of 1939 Litvinov resigned from his position as Commissar of Foreign Affairs and was superseded by Viacheslav Molotov. This resignation, it is to be noted, took place several months prior to the German-Russian Non-aggression pact of August 23 1939. A special correspondent of the New York Times, G. E. H. Gedye reported in the September 12, 1939, issue that reliable SU

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sources in Russia considered this resignation as an admission on Litvinov's part that his "Peace-front Policy" had finally failed. It was believed that Great Britain and France were determined to head Germany off to the East. Litvinov was said to have suggested that he be allowed to resign in order to permit Russia to buy herself out of her position of isolation. This offer was accepted following Hitler's seizure of Prague in March, 1939. C S U

The Contemporary Review of June, 1939, contained an article entitled "Litvinov and After" by George Soloveytchik which explained that Litvinov's resignation may have been due to the following considerations: "First, it is to force Britain and France to hurry up in their decisions by removing the Soviet personality that is most congenial to them, and the hope of a better bargain in consequence. Second, a desire arising out of the above consideration, to show the world that unless Soviet Russia's legitimate aspirations are gratified the policy of the chief protagonist of a western orientation can be replaced by isolationism. And third, a wink to Germany that the way to a possible understanding has been cleared of one of its main obstacles; if a rapprochement ever were to take place it presupposes a modicum of anti-semitism in Russia and anti-capitalism in Germany -- an "adjustment" that Hitler and Stalin could carry through without much difficulty." C S U

In commenting upon Litvinov's favorable standing in the Soviet Regime the writer pointed out that when Litvinov celebrated his sixtieth birthday in 1936 the Soviet press made an unusual fuss over him, an honor conferred upon few Bolsheviks except Lenin and Stalin. The writer further pointed out that soon after, "the tidal wave of 'purges' rose which swept away even the most conspiciously successful of Litvinov's corraborators. He lost practically all his best ministers, ambassadors and high officials and how he himself survived is a miracle." C S U

In criticising Stalin for entering into a pact with Germany in 1939 which was doomed to failure, Louis Fischer wrote in the July 19, 1941, issue of the Nation that Litvinov had truly appreciated the uselessness of negotiating with Germany, which policy merely assisted Hitler in his desire to face his enemies one at a time. Litvinov was said to have advocated collaboration with France and Great Britain in opposition to Germany in 1939. C S U

On July 8, 1941, Litvinov broadcast in English, from Moscow, an appeal to the British people to strike a blow immediately to assist Russia. This was said to have been Litvinov's first public address since 1939. C S U

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According to an article contained in the New York Times of November 7, 1941, Litvinov has been known as an anti-German since Hitler came to power. This article describes him as a man of exceptional ability, adroit, as well as forceful. This same issue carries a column from Washington which regards the appointment as an indication that Russia will continue in its fight against Hitler regardless of the fall of Moscow. This column which is attributed to the North American Newspaper Alliance points out that he stands for a policy in Russia which pays great heed to the policies and practices of the western world. It goes on to state that his present manners may be sometimes deemed brutal which is not surprising for a man endowed with a "strong, logical mind and a gift for telling phrases." C&SU

This column considered as a weak point the fact that in Moscow, Litvinov does not belong to the inner circle which runs the party and the empire. "As an outsider....he is a clever man who knows how to deal with the West and can address it in its own language." C&SU

The sources consulted did not indicate whether or not Litvinov has written any books or publications; however it is to be noted that many of his speeches have been published, among which are "Against Aggression," a collection of speeches made by Litvinov relating to his collective security position, published in 1939; "The U.S.S.R. and the League of Nations" published in 1934, which explains the U.S.S.R. position on collective security; and "Czechoslovakia and the World Crisis," published in September, 1938. C&SU

Attention is called to the fact that in March of 1938 Robert M. received a letter from one Casimir P. Palmer who claims to have been associated with Scotland Yard in their "Special Branch," (Political Section). In his work in England Palmer stated he became familiar with the Russian revolutionists including Trotsky, Lenin and Stalin. He mentioned that in 1910 while working on "The Hounds Ditch Murders and the Sydeny Street Seige Palmer stated, "...these crimes were conceived and executed by the 'expropriators' under guidance of Joe Jugashvili (Joseph Stalin) and Meyer Wallach (Maxim Litvinoff). Confidential reports from the "Special Branch," Scotland Yard, and New York's Bomb Squad will bear me out. Maxim Litvinoff was in New York in 1917 and was in direct touch with the German saboteurs and Irish Nationalists. And that seems to explain the circumstance that Maxim Litvinoff escaped the purge thus far." Robert M. pointed out that Palmer's trustworthiness is more than questionable, his business and practices are on the shady side and he is described as a pathological liar. C&SU

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HEE:VGO December 5, 1941

PERSONAL AND ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
SPECIAL MESSENGER

Honorable Adolf A. Berle, Jr.
Assistant Secretary of State
Department of State
Washington, D. C.

CLASSIFIED DECISIONS FINALIZED
BY DEPARTMENT REVIEW COMMITTEE (DRC)
DATE: 4/13/88

My dear Mr. Berle:

This will confirm the telephonic conversation had by Mr. Fletcher Warren of the State Department with Mr. Harry M. Kimball of this Bureau on this date, at which time Mr. Warren was advised of information received from a generally reliable confidential source indicating that certain officials of the Russian Government in this country are very much displeased with the appointment of Maxim Litvinoff as Russian Ambassador to the United States.

In this connection, an official of the Amtorg Trading Corporation in New York City has reportedly remarked that Litvinoff will have "a great deal of opposition from the real Russian movement during his stay in this country". This individual further allegedly stated that "Litvinoff is the smart aleck type and cannot be told anything".

You will recall that on December 3, 1941, I advised you of a reported plot by the White Russian-Fascist groups in the United States to assassinate Russian Ambassador Litvinoff upon his arrival in this country. The confidential informant inquired of the above mentioned Amtorg Trading Corporation official whether there is any intention of doing away with Litvinoff upon his arrival here and the official reportedly remarked, "It is very lucky that he has not been bumped off so far."

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Mr. Tracy
Mr. Gesson
Mr. Carson
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Bolloman
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy

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NW 60228 DocId:34297924 Page 12

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The informant further inquired as to whether the assassination of Litvinoff would cause complications between the United States and Russia, to which the official replied negatively, stating that "Litvinoff is not a real representative of the Russian people and their sentiment, and such an incident would have no effect on the international relations between our two countries".

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

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NW 60228 : DocId:34297924 Page 13

CONFIDENTIAL

HMK:MES

December 3, 1941

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL
BY SPECIAL MESSENGER

[100-51772-3]

INDEXED

Major General Edwin M. Watson
Secretary to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

DECLASSIFIED ON 3042 PUT IN
BY 10/24/85

Dear General Watson:

As of possible interest to the President and you, I wish to advise that information has been received from a generally reliable source that the White Russian-Fascist movement in the United States has allegedly been plotting to take the life of the new Russian Ambassador to the United States, Maxim Litvinoff, upon his arrival in this country.

The alleged plot was reportedly discussed at a meeting held several weeks ago in New York City which was attended by sympathizers of the White Russian and Fascist movements. The informant indicated that among others present at the meeting were Anastase Vonsiatsky, prominently mentioned as the leader of the White Russian movement in the United States, and Wilhelm Kunze, former leader of the German-American Bund.

Every effort is being made to determine the exact details of the alleged plot and the identity of the persons responsible for it, and I shall be pleased to furnish you with such additional information as is developed.

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Date of Review 12/30/81

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Carson
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Mendon
Mr. Hottoman
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Nease
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4 DEC 27 1941

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December 3, 1941

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL
BY SPECIAL MESSENGER

Honorable Adolf A. Berle, Jr.
Assistant Secretary of State
Department of State
Washington, D. C.

Class. by 3427 vet/aag
Date of Review OADR
11-1-82
3042 pwt/lp
10/24/85

Dear Mr. Berle:

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Sincerely yours,

31536

J. Edgar Hoover

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ON 12/29/91

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4:40 p.m.
HMK:VGO

December 2, 1941

MR. D. M. LADD

RE: RUSSIAN ACTIVITIES IN U.S.

JAN 1976 CLASSIFIED BY DEPARTMENTAL REVIEW COMMITTEE (DRC) DATE: 7/13/88
304 + PUT 1 10-11-88
Class. by 327VRJ 1009
Date of Review OADR
1-1-92
304 + PUT 1 10/18/95

SA James Malley called from New York to advise that a telephone call has just been received by the New York Division from Mr. M. Weinbaum, 413 East 14th Street, New York City, who is editor of the Russian newspaper "Novoye Russkoge Slovo".

Mr. Weinbaum advised that he has confidential information in his possession concerning a plot against the life of the new Soviet Ambassador to the United States Maxim Litvinoff, who is scheduled to arrive in California within the next few days. He requested that a Special Agent call upon him tomorrow morning at 10:30 a.m., at which time he would furnish information concerning this plot.

SA Malley stated that arrangements are being made by the New York Office to have two competent Special Agents interview Mr. Weinbaum at the scheduled time, 10:30 a.m. tomorrow morning. He stated that the Bureau would be promptly and fully advised of the results of this interview.

SA Malley advised that Confidential Informant [redacted] of the New York Office has previously advised that the appointment of Litvinoff as Russian Ambassador to the United States has not met with the general approval of Russian officials in the United States. However, no information other than the fact that he "might have a hard time getting along in this country" has been received. No information has been obtained indicating a plot against Litvinoff's life prior to the call from Mr. Weinbaum.

With reference to Weinbaum, SA Malley advised that SA George Starr has indicated that Weinbaum is reliable, as is his newspaper.

As a matter of information, SA Malley stated that there is a biography of Litvinoff set forth in the current December, 1941, issue of the monthly magazine "Current Biography".

Respectfully,

Harry M. Kimball

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

[100-51772-3]

Class. & Ext., By SP1 MAC/LMB 13/99/1 51
Reason - FCIM II, 1-2.4.2
Date of Review 12/31/91

NW 60228 DocId:34297924 Page 16 FOIA b(7) - D

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

Federal Bureau of Investigation

United States Department of Justice

Washington, D. C.

CONFIDENTIAL

4:40 p.m.
HMK:VGG

December 2, 1941

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Quinn
Mr. Carson
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Harden
Mr. Holloman
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Harbo
Tele. Room
Tour Room
Mr. Nease
Miss Beahm
Miss Gandy

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. D. M. LADD

RE: RUSSIAN ACTIVITIES IN U. S.

SA James Malley called from New York to advise that a telephone call has just been received by the New York Division from Mr. M. Weinbaum, 413 East 14th Street, New York City, who is editor of the Russian newspaper "Novoye Russkoge Slovo".

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As a matter of information, SA Malley stated that there is a biography of Litvinoff set forth in the current December, 1941, issue of the monthly magazine "Current Biography".

Respectfully,

Harry M. Kimball

Harry M. Kimball

CONFIDENTIAL

FOIA b 7 - D

INDEXED

100-51772-3

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
3 DEC 8 1941
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FIVE

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

NW 60228 DocId:34297924 Page 17

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

HHH:VSD December 5, 1941

[100-51772-5]

RECORDED

PERSONAL AND ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
SPECIAL MESSENGER

Major General Edwin M. Watson
Secretary to the President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

CLASSIFIED DECISIONS FINALIZED
BY DEPARTMENT REVIEW COMMITTEE (DRC)
DATE: 4/13/88 3042 PUT/PP 7/1/88

Dear General Watson:

As of possible interest to the President and you, information has been received from a generally reliable confidential source indicating that certain officials of the Russian Government in this country are very much displeased with the appointment of Maxim Litvinoff as Russian Ambassador to the United States.

In this connection, an official of the Amtorg Trading Corporation in New York City has reportedly remarked that Litvinoff will have "a great deal of opposition from the real Russian movement during his stay in this country". This individual further allegedly stated that "Litvinoff is the smart aleck type and cannot be told anything".

You will recall that on December 3, 1941, I advised you of a reported plot by the White Russian-Fascist group in the United States to assassinate Russian Ambassador Litvinoff upon his arrival in this country. The confidential informant inquired of the above mentioned Amtorg Trading Corporation official whether there is any intention of doing away with Litvinoff upon his arrival here and the official reportedly remarked, "It is very lucky that he has not been bumped off so far."

Class. by 349 VET/amd DADR
Date of Review 11-1-82
3042 PUT/PP 10/23/85

Class. & Ext. By 9pm MAC/ttm
Reason-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2
Date of Review 12/29/91

12/29/81

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31733

RECEIVED-ROOM DEC 6 1941 FBI

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED
☆ DEC 6 1941 ☆
P. M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Carson
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Holloman
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Major General Edwin M. Watson

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

The informant further inquired as to whether the assassination of Litvinoff would cause complications between the United States and Russia, to which the official replied negatively, stating that "Litvinoff is not a real representative of the Russian people and their sentiment, and such an incident would have no effect on the international relations between our two countries".

With assurances of my highest regards.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

CONFIDENTIAL

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Carson
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Kendon
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Harbo
Tele. Room
Tour Room
Mr. Nease
Miss Beahn
Miss Gandy

10:20 a.m.
HMK:VGG

December 5, 1941

CLASSIFIED DECISIONS FINALIZED BY DEPARTMENTAL REVIEW COMMITTEE (DRC) DATE: 4/13/88

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. D. M. LADD

RE: ALLEGED PLOT TO ASSASSINATE RUSSIAN AMBASSADOR MAXIM LITVINOFF

SA Simons called from New York City to advise that Special Agents of the New York Office will this morning again interview M. Weinbaum, the Russian newspaper editor in New York City in an endeavor to determine the identity of his informant who in turn will be interviewed concerning the information allegedly in his possession with regard to a plot by the White Russian-Fascist movement in the United States to assassinate Russian Ambassador Litvinoff.

During my conversation with SA Simons he remarked that Confidential Informant [redacted] of the New York Office discussed the coming of Litvinoff to this country with Vladmir Yaroslavsky, admittedly a confidential bureau man at the Russian Amtorg Corporation in New York City. Yaroslavsky stated that Russian officials in this country are very much displeased with the appointment of Litvinoff. In this connection, Yaroslavsky stated that Litvinoff will have a great deal of opposition from the "real Russian movement" during his stay in this country. Yaroslavsky remarked that Litvinoff is the "smart aleck type" and cannot be told anything.

The confidential informant inquired of Yaroslavsky whether there is any intention of doing away with Litvinoff upon his arrival here and Yaroslavsky remarked, "It is very lucky that he has not been bumped off so far".

The informant further inquired as to whether the assassination of Litvinoff would cause complications between the United States and Russia, to which Yaroslavsky replied negatively, stating that Litvinoff is not a real representative of the Russian people and their sentiment, and such an incident would have no effect on the international relations between these countries.

RECORDED 100-51222-5
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
5 DEC 9 1941
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FIVE

This information was furnished telephonically to Mr. Fletcher Warren of the State Department who had also been previously furnished with the original information received from newspaper editor Weinbaum mentioned above.

INDEXED

Respectfully,

Harry M. Kimball

Harry M. Kimball

Class. & Ext. By 5[illegible]
Reason-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2
Date of Review 12/14/81 12/14/81

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

Class. by 3[illegible]
Date of Review OADR
10/31/85

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FOIA(b)(7) - (D)

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JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

CONFIDENTIAL

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Carson
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Rendon
Mr. Holloman
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Harbo
Tele. Room
Tour Room
Mr. Nease
Miss Beahm
Miss Gandy

4:00 p.m.
HMK:VGG

December 3, 1941

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. D. M. LADD

RE: ALLEGED PLOT TO ASSASSINATE RUSSIAN AMBASSADOR MAXIM LITVINOFF

Reference is made to my memorandum dated December 2, 1941, advising of a call received from the New York Office indicating that Mr. M. Weinbaum, 413 East 14th Street, New York City, who is editor of the Russian newspaper "Novoye Russkoje Slovo", was to be interviewed for information reportedly in his possession concerning a plot against the life of the new Soviet Ambassador to the United States, Maxim Litvinoff, who is scheduled to arrive in California within the next few days.

I called SA Simons at New York City and inquired as to the results of the interview which was to have taken place at 10:30 a.m. this morning. He advised that the interview was conducted by SA Lanman and a second Agent of the New York Office and that no definite information was obtained. In this connection, he stated that Mr. Weinbaum advised that several days ago a White Russian, whose name he would not reveal, came to him stating that he had been present at a meeting recently held in New York City which was attended by a group of White Russian Fascists, at which meeting a plot was discussed to assassinate Ambassador Litvinoff upon his arrival here.

According to the informant, among others attending the meeting were Anastase Vonsiatsky, well known leader of the White Russian movement in this country, and Wilhelm Kunze, former leader of the German-American Bund. Details concerning the plot to assassinate Ambassador Litvinoff were not obtained by Weinbaum during his interview with his informant. In this connection, Weinbaum stated that he did not press his informant too closely to obtain any detailed information in view of the fact it was apparent that the informant was reluctant to give such information. Further, Weinbaum advised that the informant had stated that he did not desire to report the matter to Government authorities.

4 DEC 27 1941

100-5772-2

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
3 DEC
CONFIDENTIAL
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RECORDED
INDEXED

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 12/30/81 BY SP1 MAC/TAR

Class. by SP1 MAC/TAR
Date of Review 11/1/82 OADR
DECLASSIFIED ON: 30 Jun 2042 per NARA 10/18/83

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Class. & Ext. By SP1 MAC/TAR
Reason=FCIM II, 1-2.4.2
Date of Review 12/30/91 12/30/81

CONFIDENTIAL

SA Simons stated that the Agents conducting the interview impressed upon Weinbaum the importance of such an allegation and at the conclusion of the interview Weinbaum advised that he would endeavor to recontact his informant and arrange for him to be interviewed by Special Agents of the Bureau within the next few days if possible.

With reference to the original informant, Weinbaum advised that he is a White Russian who has been traveling in South America for the past three years and who recently returned to New York City. He stated that in addition to his remarks concerning the alleged plot to kill Ambassador Litvinoff, the informant also advised that he has in his possession a complete list of all German agents operating in South America. SA Simons stated that at the time the informant is interviewed by Special Agents of the Bureau, an attempt will be made to obtain this list from him.

With further reference to the meeting of the White Russian Fascists at which the alleged plot was discussed, Weinbaum stated the informant advised him that he observed Vonsiatsky to give Kunze a large amount of money which was to be used for Kunze to flee the United States. In this connection, you will recall that information has been received that Vonsiatsky and Kunze recently fled this country although this information has never been corroborated and the definite whereabouts of these individuals are not known by the Bureau at the present time.

I told SA Simons that in view of the importance of this matter, every endeavor should be made to arrange to interview the original informant at the earlist possible moment and that the Bureau should be promptly and fully advised of the results of the interview.

The information concerning the alleged plot on the life of the Russian Ambassador, Maxim Litvinoff, is being furnished to General Watson at the White House, and to Mr. Berle of the State Department.

Respectfully,

Harry M. Kimball

Harry M. Kimball

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

137

DEC 4 1941

TELETYPE

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 12/29/81 BY SP4 MAXTAR

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Gurnea
Mr. Carson
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Rotheman
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy

Mr. Cunningham
Mr. Fitch
Mr. Kimball
Mr. Kramer
Mr. Strickland
Mr. Timm

FBI NYC 12-4-41 10-55 PM JM

DIRECTOR

M. WEINBAUM, EDITOR NOVOYE RUSSKOYE SLOVO NEWSPAPER, FOUR ONE THREE EAST FOURTEENTH STREET, INFORMS AGENTS OF THIS OFFICE THAT HE HAS BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL IN CONTACTING AND ARRANGING INTERVIEW WITH HIS INFORMANT WHO ADVISED OF AN ATTEMPT TO BE MADE ON LIFE OF MAXIME LITVINOFF UPON ARRIVAL IN U S AT SAN FRANCISCO BY NAZIS AND RUSSIAN FASCIST. LOCAL NEWSPAPERS STATE LITVINOFF IS TO ARRIVE AT SAN FRANCISCO SATURDAY, DECEMBER SIXTH NINETEEN FORTYONE. WILL CONTINUE TO CONTACT AND OBTAIN COMPLETE DETAILS FROM WEINBAUMS INFORMANT AT WHICH TIME THE BUREAU WILL BE ADVISED.

FOXWORTH

A A H

OK FBI WASH DC FF

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

Letter
Watson + Berle
12/5/41
HMK

3d2 Part Upp 1/23/85
Class. by 3d2 VLT/amg
Date of Review OADR
11-1-82

CHICAGO

DECLASSIFIED ON 3d2 Part Upp
BY 10/24/85

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
5 DEC 10
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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Reason-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2
Date of Review 12/20/91 12-56-81

CONFIDENTIAL

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

CONFIDENTIAL

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Carson
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Holloman
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Harbo
Tele. Room
Tour Room
Mr. Nease
Miss Beahm
Miss Gandy

MCS:VGG

December 6, 1941
10:45 a. m.

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. D. M. LADD

RE: ALLEGED PLOT TO ASSASSINATE
RUSSIAN AMBASSADOR MAXIM
LITVINOFF

Mr. Fletcher Warren of the State Department telephoned at the above mentioned time to advise he had received the Bureau's letter regarding the above mentioned situation.

Mr. Warren said that a Special Agent of the Department of State is at San Francisco to meet Litvinoff today and proceed back with him to Washington, being expected to arrive at Washington tomorrow. Mr. Warren said he had passed along our information to the Protocol Division of the State Department which will make it available to the Special Agents of that service.

Mr. Warren further said that he appreciated this information from us and added that the State Department has no request tomake upon the FBI at the present time for assistance in this matter; however, if any matter arises which necessitates our assistance the State Department will feel free to call upon us.

Respectfully,

M. C. Spear

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DATE 12/29/81 BY SP4 MAC/TAR

deloss per State Dept ltr 9/13/82 3042-Rut/Dop 8/10/87

DECLASSIFIED ON 3042 Rut/Dop
BY 10/23/85

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OTHERWISE

Class. by 3427 VLT/JAS
Date of Review OADR
11-1-88 Rut/Dop
3042 10/23/85

100-5772-7 ENCLOSURE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
6 DEC 10 1941
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Class. & Ext. By SP4 MAC/TAR
Reason-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2 2.3
Date of Review 12/30/91
12/30/81

CONFIDENTIAL

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
DEC 3 19[illegible]

TELETYPE

CONFIDENTIAL

Mr. E. A. Tamm.....
Mr. Clegg .....
Mr. Glavin .....
Mr. Ladd .....
Mr. Nichols .....
Mr. Tracy .....
Mr. Rosen .....
Mr. Carson .....
Mr. Coffey .....
Mr. Hendon .....
Mr. Holloman .....
Mr. Quinn Tamm.....
Mr. Nease .....
Miss Gandy.....

Kimball
Shecta

FBI NYC 12-3-41 2-45 PM DB

DIRECTOR

INFORMANT RECEIVED TODAY FROM MR WEINBAUM, EDITOR OF NOVOYE RUSSKOYE SLOVA FOUR ONE THREE EAST FOURTEENTH STREET, NYC, THAT A CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANT HAS ADVISED OF AN ATTEMPT TO BE MADE ON LIFE OF MAXIME LETVINOFF UPON LATTERS ARRIVAL IN U S POSSIBLY AT SAN FRANCISCO BY NAZI AND RUSSIAN FACISTS. EFFORTS BEING MADE TO CONTACT AND OBTAIN COMPLETE DETAILS FROM WEINBAUMS INFORMANT AT WHICH TIME BUREAU WILL BE ADVISED.

FOXWORTH

ACK AND HOLD

OK FBI WASH DC WV

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 12/29/81 BY SP7 MAC/TAR

Class. & Ext. By SP7 MAC/TAR
Reason-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2 2.5
Date of Review 12/30/91

12/30/81

CH-25

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Class. by SP7 MAC/TAR
Date of Review 11-1-91
DECLASSIFIED ON 10/23/85

100-51772-8

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
7 DEC 8 1941
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

CONFIDENTIAL

172

CONFIDENTIAL

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

DEC 13 19 41

TELETYPE

Mr. Cannigham
Mr. Fitch
Mr. Kimball
Mr. Kramer
Mr. Strickland
Mr. Timm

Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Lack
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Carson
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Egan
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy

FBI NYC 12-13-41 12-20 PM EST JWG

DIRECTOR

UNKNOWN SUBJECTS. [redacted] INFORMANT, INTERNAL SECURITY--G, ~~54952/XXX~~ 1 TROTSKY. REFERRING TO PREVIOUS NY TELETYPE RE M WEINBAUM, EDITOR, NOVOYE RUSSKOYE SLAVO, NY, WHOSE INFORMANT CLAIMED TO HAVE INFORMATION RE ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION OF MAXIM LITVINOFF. WEINBAUM NOW STATES INFORMANTS NAME IS [redacted] ALIAS [redacted] IDENTICAL WITH [redacted], KNOWN TO BE THOROUGHLY UNRELIABLE. UNLESS ADVISED TO CONTRARY NO FURTHER INVESTIGATION WILL BE CONDUCTED IN THE MATTER.

FOXWORTH

END

OK FBI WASH DC RNM

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 12/29/81 BY SP1 MAC/TAR

RECORDED 100-51772-9

INDEXED

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
7 DEC 20 1941
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

Class. & Ext. By SP1 MAC/TAR
Reason-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2
Date of Review 12/29/91

Class. by 247 UCR
Date of Review
DECLASSIFIED ON 3042 10/29/85

CONFIDENTIAL

NW 60228 DocId:34297924 Page 26

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Carson
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Holloman
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Harbo
Tele. Room
Tour Room
Mr. Nease
Miss Beahm
Miss Gandy

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

December 6, 1941

RAM
7:45pm

~~ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 12/29/81 BY SP4 MAC/HAR~~

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. LADD

Special Agent in Charge J. C. Newman telephoned from Salt Lake City and wished to know whether the Bureau desired his office to arrange with the Salt Lake City Police Department for special protection to be given to Maxim Litvinoff, Russian Ambassador in the event the airplane carrying him landed at the airport in that city.

He declared that the local office of the United Airlines had advised that the plane which was en route to Washington, D. C. might land at Salt Lake City and that the officials of the Company wished to know whether the Bureau desired to make arrangements for special police protection.

The writer advised Mr. Newman that if he received no call from the Bureau within one half hour no action in the matter was desired by the Bureau.

In accordance with this arrangement no call was made to Mr. Newman after obtaining your opinion to the effect you did not believe that the Bureau need take the action suggested by the United Airlines.

Class. & Ext. By SP4 MAC/HAR
Reason-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2 2.3
Date of Review 12/30/81
12/30/81

RECORDED 100-371772-19

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
DEC 22 1941
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Respectfully,
R. A. MacMillan
R. A. MacMillan

17 DEC 31 1941

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

Class. by 3674 VAT/amg
Date of Review OADR
DECLASSIFIED BY 3042 ON 10-25-82

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

KRM:hr

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

December 15, 1941

RECORDED 100-51772-11

PERSONAL AND ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
BY SPECIAL MESSENGER

Honorable Adolf A. Berle, Jr.
Assistant Secretary of State
Department of State
Washington, D. C.

#245238

CLASSIFIED DECISIONS FINALIZED
BY DEPARTMENT REVIEW COMMITTEE (DRC)
DATE: 4/13/88

Class. by 3678RT
Date of Review 7-1-88

My dear Mr. Berle:

Information has been received from a confidential source, but has not been verified by investigation, to the effect that Maxim Litvinoff, Soviet Ambassador to the United States is an imposter. It is alleged that the true Litvinoff was a professor of languages in London, England, and died there in 1921. It is reported that the correct name of the deceased Litvinoff was Abel Finkelstein. This man is said to have been a native of Kalvaria, Lithuania, and it is speculated that he adopted the pseudonym Litvinoff as a derivative from Litvin, Lithuania. It is reported that the deceased Litvinoff was the official translator for the Home Office in London.

It is confidentially reported that Litvinoff's correct name is Meyer Vallakh and that he was imprisoned in Kiev in 1901 on the charge of having a printing press in his possession which was used for the printing of social democratic literature.

It is reported that after amnesty was granted in Russia in 1905, Litvinoff returned to Russia in possession of a German passport issued in the name of Graff. It is said that in 1908 he was expelled from France and went to England. Thereafter he reportedly did not come to the attention of the authorities until the World War. It is said that in 1918 Litvinoff was in London representing the Bolshevist government. In that capacity he attended a conference of the Labor Party at Nottingham on January 22, 1918. At that time he allegedly made

Class. & Ext. By SP7 MAC/HAR
Reason FCIM II, 1-2.4.2 1.3
Date of Review 12/29/91

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Carson
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Nolloman
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Nease
Mrs. Gandy

3 JAN 9 1942

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
MAILED 33150
DEC 17 1941
P. M.
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

DEC 15 12 53 PM '41
DEPT OF JUSTICE

FBI
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DEC 18

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CONFIDENTIAL

a violent appeal to British workmen to abandon resolutions and follow the example established by the Soviet Union. It is said at that time he was identified with the distribution of seditious literature which was allegedly brought into England by a Bolshevist courier. It is also reported he was identified with the Sinn Fein movement.

Information confidentially received indicates that he was arrested in London under Section 18 of the Defense of the Realm Act in April, 1918, and was interned. He was thereupon sent to Brixton Gaol on September 6, 1918, but allegedly on September 25, 1918, was permitted to return to the Soviet Union.

It is said that Litvinoff has used the following aliases: Finkelstein, Buchman, Graff, Harrison.

The confidential informant from whom the above-mentioned information was received also disclosed that there was some indication that Litvinoff was living in New York City in 1917.

As I have pointed out above, these data are without verification by this Bureau. However, I wanted to make this information available to you for any action you might deem advisable.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

CONFIDENTIAL

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Federal Bureau of Investigation

United States Department of Justice

New York, New York

GJS:SvB

December 3, 1941

~~Confidential~~

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Holloman
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

During the course of numerous conversations with CASIMIR P. PALMER, the latter discussed with Special Agent George J. Starr of this office, MAXIM LITVINOFF, who has now been designated as Soviet Ambassador to the United States. PALMER, formerly employed by the "Special Branch", Scotland Yard, has always contended that LITVINOFF is what he calls a "phony".

On February 24, 1939, PALMER wrote to Agent Starr a letter reading as follows:

" Enclosed please find information on Maxim Litvinoff, Soviet Commissar for Foreign Affairs. I know him to be a phony; the real Finkelstein-Litvinoff, was professor of languages in London and there died in 1921. I obtained a photostat copy of the death certificate from Somerset House, in December, 1933, while making inquiries about war time German sabotage in the United States.

I knew the late Abel Finkelstein personally. He was a native of Kalvaria, Lithuania, and that was probably the reason why he adopted the pen-name Litvinoff, derivative from Litvin - Lithuanian. The late Finkelstein-Litvinoff was the official translator for the Home Office in London and spoke 17 languages. He, too, married an Englishwoman. He was a man of character and honor.

Meyer Wallakh, whose name is linked with the Houndsditch murder case and the "Siege" in Sydney Street, London, which took place December 17, 1910, and January 3, 1911, respectively. Meyer Walakh, alias Maxim Litvinoff was a friend of Joe Djugashvili, alias Joseph Stalin, and the two directed the operations of the "Expropriators" both in Europe and in the United States of America. "

I ENCLO. 4

INDEXED 100-51772-11

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
DEC 22 1941
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FIVE

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~~Class. & Ext. By~~ SPM NACIJAR
Reason ~~FCIM II~~ 1-2.4.2
~~Date of Review~~ 12/24/81 12/29/81

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Class. by 3642 PBT 10/23/85 Date of Review OADR 12-1-82

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

To: Director December 3, 1941.

Attached to the letter was a one-page typewritten record of Litvinoff, which reads as follows:

" This information has been obtained from the records of the "Special Branch" Scotland Yard, London.

MAXIM LITVINOFF

Long record of anti-British activities.

M. Litvinoff, the signatory of the Soviet note to Great Britain, has a record that is well known to England. He was pretty busy here during one stage of the war. His real name is not Litvinoff, but Meyer Vallakh (son of Moses). He is stated to have been imprisoned in Kieff in 1901 for having a printing press for social democratic literature.

After the amnesty of 1905 to Russian political offenders, he returned to Russia furnished with German passport under the name of Graff. In 1907 the Russian police issued a description of Litvinoff, alias Vallakh, alias Harrison, and the photograph was identified as Litvinoff. In 1908 he was expelled from France and came to England. He was not heard of till the war, during which the Consul-General denied that he was a German agent. But he took an indecent interest in munition works in England.

In January 1918, he was in London representing the Bolshevist Government. In that capacity he attended the conference of the Labor Party at Nottingham on January 22nd when he made a violent appeal to British workmen to leave resolutions alone and follow the example of Russia. At that time he was closely associated with the distribution of seditious literature brought in by a Bolshevist courier named Holtzmann. Later he was in touch with the Sinn Fein movement.

He was arrested in London under Section 18 of the Defence of the Realm Act in April, 1918, and was interned. He was sent to Brixton Gaol on September 6th, but on September 25th he was allowed to return to Russia.

There does not seem to be any record of Litvinoff's activities beginning with the declaration until

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NW 60228 DocId:34297924 Page 31

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

To: Director December 3, 1941

" the end of the world war.

His aliases have been many— Finklestein, Buchman, Graff, Harrison. After the Armistice Litvinoff returned to Germany. During the war there are rumors that Litvinoff lived in the U.S.

According to Leon Trotsky, Litvinoff was behind the plot to rob Harris' Jewelry store in Houndsditch in December 1910. "

Reference PALMER included the following so-called additional information:

" Maxim Litvinoff married to Miss Ivy Low, niece of Sir Sydney Low.

Real name Meyer Moiseyevitch Vallakh.

According to Lieutenant Newman, Chief of the Bomb Squad, Litvinoff was an active Bolshevik agitator in New York in 1917; he left New York together with Leon Trotsky in March, but arrived in Russia before Trotsky, because the latter was taken off the Sweedish line steamer at Halifax and interned there; Alexander Kerensky interceded on Trotsky's behalf and he was liberated from the concentration camp one month later. Trotsky threatened to avenge the English speaking people for his humiliation, and he kept his word. "

It is noted that ELIZABETH DILLING, in her book, "The Roosevelt Red Record and Its Background", in referring to the question of recognition of the Soviet Union, makes reference to Litvinoff, stating in part: U

" But Roosevelt invited its ex-bandit representative, Litvinoff (Finkelstein) to the White House to be dined and entertained with honors and recognized the Soviet Russian Government,-11/16/33. " U

The alleged life history of Litvinoff is set out in considerable detail on pages 371 to 377. His biography, it is also noted, is set out in a more condensed form on page 303 of the "American Labor Who's Who". This however, does not include recent material, inasmuch as this book was published in 1925. U

Very truly yours, CONFIDENTIAL

P.E. Foxworth

P.E.FOXWORTH, Asst. Director

(3)

NW 60228 DocId:34297924 Page 32

HF

LITVINOFF, MAXIM
(Aliases GUST[illegible] GRAF, HARRISON)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Subject's real name is FINKELSTEIN; he is a Russian Jew and native of Baisk (Baltic Province); has been a druggist and journalist; speaks several languages; educated in Russian County School and early in life became a propagandist and made a tour of Baltic Provinces, Lithuania and Poland. (C) U

In 1901 was arrested at Kiev for owning and operating secret printing press for social democratic literature and exiled to Siberia for five years. Evidently escaped in 1902 with a German passport issued under the name GUSTAV GRAF. After the 1905 Amnesty he joined a gang of swindlers who robbed both banks and individuals. In 1905 he went to London in agricultural department of the Russian Government committee. In July 1917 he became manager of the committee on Correct Information about new Russia at Imperial House, Kingsway. During the Kerensky regime, he professed strong Anti-Bolshevist spirit, but when the change was imminent, promptly turned. (C) U (Despatch 352 Crane 12-1-20) (C)

DECLASSIFIED DIA 8/10/82

Subject was one of the original agents sent from Germany back into Russia, in a sealed car and after October (191) (year omitted) revolution, was named minister of the Soviet Government to London, but was not acknowledged by the British. His apartment was a rendezvous for London laborers until complaint was made, resulting in court action by the proprietor and eviction. Was in continual touch with DR.MARTINI president of the Russian-Danish Red Cross, and through him over eleven (C) U

SPZTAP/C/5 5/30/85 #245238 100-51772-112 JCM ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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Date of Review OADR 11-17-...

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LITVINOFF, MAXIM

million roubles were transmitted to Denmark for propaganda purposes. Subject was one of the first to advise compromises with the Allies. (State 1-26-20)

LUDWIG MARTENS reported to subject on the progress of the Senate investigation. (N.I.2-20-20)

LINCOLN STEFFENS conferred with subject in Copenhagen. (Lamb 2-21-20)

Subject was a delegate to international Communist Congress at Christiania June 1920. (Despatch #57 W.Phillips, 5-15-20)

Subject and TCHICHERIN made arrangements for the subsidizing of the London "Daily Herlad" (Hurley 9-17-20)

On October 8,1920 a despatch from Stockholm brought a "Rosta" interview with subject, regarding his negotiations for opening trade between Norway and Russia . Subject was travelling with two female secretaries KARABOOKINA and ZARJETSKAYA. No trade agreement was made at that time.

It is believed that subject owes his position at present to DZERZHINSKY Chief of the Extraordinary Commission, and both were responsible for

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NW 60228 DocId:34297924 Page 34

LITVINOFF, MAXIM CONFIDENTIAL

the plan to make foreign residents hostages for political purposes, and withdraw protection of foreign property through legations, consulates and Red Cross. (Despatch #352 Crane 12-1-20)

Subject was charged with being responsible for certain bolshevik reverses in Poland. Continually urged capture of Warsaw by Red troops. It is alleged he became unpopular at Moscow on this account. (Hoover 11-20-20)

Subject became director of Western Department of Foreign Affairs for the Soviet Government, the jurisdiction including Europe and America. In November 1920 subject was supposed to be en route to China on a communist mission. "The Toiler" official organ of the United Communists in Stockholm in November 1920 stated that subject and BORIS REINSTEIN would come to America, possibly by way of China, as agents of Lenin and that BENJAMIN SCHLESINGER and JOSEPH SCHLOSSBERG would act as advance agents for subject.

Subject Soviet envoy at Reval,- where he endeavored to establish a center of bolshevik propaganda through the publication of Communistic papers. ("Laisve" 2-7-21)

Subject succeeded GUKOWSKY at Reval. (Tel. 289 Young 1-4-21)
As the later despatches show subject in Reval instead of China, where

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HF

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

LITVINOFF, MAXIM

he was said to be en route for America, it is improbable he will follow the course at first indicated, while the fact that he has succeeded GUKOWSKY at Reval would indicate that at least for the present he will remain there.

(Memo.for Mr.Hoover from Mr.Grimes March 29, 1921)

HF

A translation from "Russky Golos" of March 17th issue, states that subject has been appointed the Soviet Ambassador to the United States to fill the vacancy created by MARTEN'S deportation.

(Memo.from Mr.Hoover,March 19,1921 with above translation attached)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NW 60228 DocId:34297924 Page 36

LITVINOFF, M. RUSSIA ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Subject was advised by Martens by wireless regarding the Senate investigation regarding his (Martens) case, in which he states that subject must take appropriate steps if he (Martens) is deported. Copies of correspondence by wireless attached.
Wireless messages signed Martens, 2-29-20 and 3/1-3/20. HF

Subject, who is a Jew, is a high official of the Soviet Government. His real name is Wallack.
Maj. H.R.Griffin 3-27-20, at Reval.

Subject left Sweden in January 1919, with the Bolshevik Vorowsky HF
M.I.D. 5-3-20.

Subject will be a delegate to the International Communist Congress to be held in Christiania in June 1920.
Despatch #57 from William Phillip, 5-15-20.

A certain Tobenken had an interview with subject. MSR
Letter to Kenneth Durant found on B.L.Bobroff, attached to letter of Lamb 8-16-20.

Subject has been for a considerable length of time in Copenhagen. NBW
Letter of J.M.Dunn to Mr. Hoover 9-9-20.

CONFIDENTIAL

NW 60228 DocId:34297924 Page 37

LITVINOV

HF

CONFIDENTIAL

Paraphrase fr[illegible] Peking states: "Former Russian Legation advises that FINKELSTEIN alias LITVINOFF is on his way to proceed to support Yourin Mission. SNYDER denied any knowledge."

[(Letter from Mr.Hurley Dec.11,1920)]

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

APR 6 1943

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Reason-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2
Date of Review 12/29/81

Tolson
E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Carson
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Hendon
Mr. McGuire
Mr. Mumford
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Wease
Miss Gandy

FBI MIAMI 4-6-43 7-52 PM EWT PGB
DIRECTOR
EDGE. MAXIM LITVINOFF, USSR AMBASSADOR TO U S , INFORMATION CONCERNING. LITVINOFF AND WIFE ARRIVED MIAMI, EASTERN AIRLINES, SIX FIFTEEN PM TODAY. MET BY CUBAN CONSUL AND LEFT AIRPORT FOR UNKNOWN DESTINATION IN REDTOP HACKER, FLORIDA LICENSE ONE E TWO NINE SEVEN.
KITCHIN
A AND H

7-53 PM OK FBI WASH GMS

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NW 60228 DocId:34297924 Page 39

OFFICE OF THE LEGAL A[illegible]

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
HABANA, CUBA

May 18, 1943

Director,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
Washington, D. C.

DECLASSIFIED ON 7-8-88
BY 3042 put 1 DP
per DRC

Re: MAXIM LITVINOFF

Dear Sir:

Believing that the visit of Maxim Litvinoff to Cuba on the occasion of his presenting his credentials as Ambassador to Cuba would be of interest to the Bureau, arrangements were made to cover his activities in a discreet manner.

Officers under the command of Comandante Faget, SIAE Section, Cuban National Police, served in the dual position as guards and observers. A copy of their report was made available to SIS #213, and excerpts from it are contained in the attached memorandum.

Arrangements were also made with the Cuban Telephone Company to furnish this office with a list of the persons telephonically contacted by Litvinoff and his party. The information obtained from this source is also contained in the attached memorandum.

Very truly yours,

CONF. INFT. S. I. S. #396

Enclosure
RMD:RM

Class. by 3042 VLT/ang
Date of Review OADR
Reason FCIM II, 1-3.4.2.3
Date of Review 5/26/82

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100-51772-12

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
MAY 21 1943
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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77 JUL 19 1943

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NW 60228 DocId:34297924 Page 40

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Habana, Cuba
May 18, 1943

CLASSIFIED DECISIONS EXAMINED BY DEPARTMENT REVIEW COMMITTEE (DRC)
DATE: 4/13/88 3042-PWT (DP) 7-11-88

MEMORANDUM:

Re: MAXIM LITVINOFF (C)

Maxim Litvinoff arrived in Habana on April 7, 1943. He was accompanied by his wife, Mr. ANTON FEDOTOV, DMITRI ZAIKIN, and KENNETH DURANT. (C)

The Police report reflected the following information concerning the activities of Litvinoff while in Habana. He arrived in Habana at approximately 2:30 p.m., April 7, 1943. He was met at the airport by government representatives and by representatives of the Communist Party, including JUAN MARINELLO, BLAS ROCA, and ANIBAL ESCALANTE. The report reflects that LITVINOFF went to the Hotel Nacional de Cuba, where he and his party had a suite. The report continues that Mr. LITVINOFF remained in the hotel all night and received no visitors. (C)

On April 8, 1943, Litvinoff visited the Ministry of State during the morning. In the afternoon, he was visited in the hotel by representatives of the Frente Nacional Anti-Fascista, which organization presented him with a check for $25,000 to aid in Russian War Relief. During the evening accompanied by his wife, he took a ride around the city of Habana, and walked along the Prado and adjoining streets. (C)

On April 9, 1943, he visited the Presidential Palace in the morning, and presented his credentials. During the afternoon, he visited historic spots in Habana. He returned to the hotel early and remained there. He saw no visitors during the evening. (C)

On April 10, 1943, he visited Prime Minister Zaydin. He also visited the British Legation and the Mexican Embassy. During the afternoon, he called on President Batista. In the evening, he had dinner in the restaurant "Cosmopolita" with the Cuban Ambassador to the United States, Concheso, and leaders of the Communist Party. After dinner he returned to the hotel. (C)

On April 11, 1943, he lunched at the Instituto Technologico de "Ceiba del Agua." (C) Afterwards he went to a cock fight in company with Coronel ANTONIO BRITO and other Police officials. This was held at the Sección de Caballería de la Policia Nacional. During the evening, he and his wife took a ride around the country surrounding Habana, returning to the hotel at an early hour. (C)

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Reason - FOIM II, 1-2, 4.2 (3)
Date of Review 5/26/82

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On April 12, 1943, he visited the Hospital de Maternidad Obrera accompanied by Ambassador Concheso. In the afternoon, he again visited the Ministry of State, took a short ride around the surrounding countryside, and departed from Rancho Boyeros at 6:30 p.m.

Through a confidential source, arrangements were made so that this office would be advised of the individuals with whom Litvinoff and his party were in telephonic contact. Although many calls were made, the only interesting development was the fact that ANTON FEDOTOV, a member of the party, telephonically communicated with MARIANNA ~~GONITCH~~ on two different occasions. Information has been received from various sources that this individual may be acting as a Communist propaganda agent. A report of her activities is being prepared for submission to the Bureau. The other calls made by the members of the party were to newspaper offices, representatives of newspapers, government officials, and various legations located in Habana.

RMD:RM

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NW 60228 DocId:34297924 Page 42

Aug 23 - 19

CONFIDENTIAL

We notice Emb. Litvinoff of Russia has been recalled.

The Press says "surprise"? is it?

We recall that Mme. Litvinoff is an artist and traveled extensively using her gift of picture making here and there especially in Washington, D.C.

I suggest the Mme. be put under strictest suspiceon and all pictures available be taken for safe keeping.

Do not PUSSYFOOT.

MAXIM LITVINOV

DECLASSIFIED ON 3024 AUTH
BY DECLASSIFY ON: DADR
10/23/85

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100-51772-13
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16 AUG 26 1943

FLORENCE J. Cooksey
930 Emerson St NW
apt 105
Washington 11 - D

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Reason-FCIM II, 1-2 4.2 2.3
Date of Review 12/30/81

12/30/81

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Declassified Case: NW 60228 Date: 12-13-2013

~~IDENTIAL~~

WAR DEPARTMENT
Military Intelligence Service
Washington

SEP 20 1943

Subject: Letter of Transmittal.

To: Honorable J. Edgar Hoover,
Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation,
United States Department of Justice,
Washington, D. C.

The attached communications are forwarded for your information and such action as you consider advisable.

lligence Service:

NEY
Staff Corps,
Officer, MIS.

4-787 (5-27-80) NOTICE OF ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
CLASSIFICATION ACTION

File # 100-51772 Serial 14

Classified And
Extended by SP7 MAC/TAR

Reason For Extension
FCIM, II, 1-2.4.2 2.3

DECLASSIFIED ON 30 SEP 1991 BY 10 11/85

Date of Review For
Declassification 12/30/91
12/30/81

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16 SEP 21 1943

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IDENTIAL

WAR DEPARTMENT
Military Intelligence Service
Washington

SEP 20 1943

Subject: Letter of Transmittal.

To: Honorable J. Edgar Hoover,
Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation,
United States Department of Justice,
Washington, D. C.

The attached communications are forwarded for your information and such action as you consider advisable.

For the Chief, Military Intelligence Service:

L. R. FORNEY
Colonel, General Staff Corps,
Asst. Executive Officer, MIS.

Enclosures:

Declassified Case: IWP 60228 Date: 02-13-2013

ENCLO. 1 183

RECORDED & INDEXED
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183

24-44799
20CT 5 1943466

Declassified Case: NW= 60228 Date: 12-13-2013

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

WAR DEPARTMENT

(Office of Headquarters)

(Place)

30 August 1943
(Date)

Subject: Communist Intrigue

Summary of Information:

1. It is believed that Max Litvinoff was once again forced to resign because he was not in sympathy with the American - South American setup of the Communists and because he was made a victim of the Communist Party as a threat to the United States.

2. It has been reported that the predecessor to Max Litvinoff is now in charge of Russian affairs in Mexico where the E.C.C.I. is all-powerful. It has also been reported the new Communist boss at Washington, D. C. Andrei A. Gromyko, was the contact man for the former Com-

st Party meeting
ported a masked
ington presented
th and South America
o information re-
ry for the plan and
d formerly ambassa-
Litvinoff came back
ee with the plan.

it was reported
pbuilding Union,
ustrial Organiza-
Union, laid plans
roved by Washington.

1-787 (5-27-80)

NOTICE OF CLASSIFICATION ACTION

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

File # 100-5772- Serial 14

Classified And DECLASSIFIED ON 3642 PWT/JP

Extended by SPM MHC / TAR 10/11/05

Reason For Extension

FCIM, II, 1-2.4.2 2,3

Date of Review For Declassification 12/30/91 12/30/81

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Administrative Markings

Previous Distribution:

Distribution:

Evaluation
~~Rel~~ of source ~~F~~ of information
Reliable
Credible
Questionable
Undetermined

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

16—17097-1 GPO

ENCLOSURE (1) 100-5772-14

Declassified Case: NW 60228 Date: 12-13-2013

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

WAR DEPARTMENT

(Office of Headquarters)

(Place)

30 August 1943
(Date)

Subject: Communist Intrigue

Summary of Information:

1. It is believed that Max Litvinoff was once again forced to resign because he was not in sympathy with the American - South American setup of the Communists and because he was made a victim of the Communist Party as a threat to the United States.

2. It has been reported that the predecessor to Max Litvinoff is now in charge of Russian affairs in Mexico where the E.C.C.I. is all-powerful. It has also been reported the new Communist boss at Washington, D. C., Andrel A. Gromyko, was the contact man for the former Communist ambassador at Washington, D. C.

3. Reference is made to the secret Communist Party meeting held in Cleveland, Ohio some time ago when it was reported a masked courier from the Russian Ambassador's office at Washington presented preliminary plans for the new Communist setup in North and South America in case Russia was defeated by Germany. According to information received, Lem Harris was appointed chief in this country for the plan and the present Russian representative at Mexico City and formerly ambassador to United States was the key man; however, when Litvinoff came back to United States to represent Moscow, he did not agree with the plan.

4. Reference is also made to the fact that it was reported at the time of this meeting five groups, namely, Shipbuilding Union, American Communications Association, Congress of Industrial Organizations, Oil Workers Union, and the National Maritime Union, laid plans to form one industrial union which plans were disapproved by Washington.

Previous Distribution:

Distribution:

Evaluation
of source of information
Reliable
Credible
Questionable
Undetermined

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

16—17097-1 GPO

ENCLOSURE 10-5172-147

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FOIA(b)(1)